



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213

FEB 03 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL, GC-1

FROM: TIMOTHY J. MEEKS
ADMINISTRATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Meeks", is written over the printed name of Timothy J. Meeks.

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summary

Attached is the Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary for Western Area Power Administration for calendar year 2009, as required by Department of Energy (DOE) Order 451.1B, NEPA Compliance Program. Electronic copies will be provided to your staff for posting on the DOE NEPA web site.

Please contact C. Shane Collins, Natural Resources Manager, at (720) 962-7252 if you have any questions.

Attachment

cc:

Carol Borgstrom, Director of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, Washington, D.C.
Lee S. Jesse, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, Washington, D.C.

FEB 09 2009

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Impact Statements

Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
NextGen Project, SD EIS-0401	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	6/29/2007	The NextGen Project involves the proposed construction of a 700 MW net coal-fired base-load generating facility, with a proposed in-service date of 2013.
		NOI:	7/27/2007	
		Scoping:	8/21/2007	
		Draft	Spring 2009	
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Project, SD and MN EIS-0377	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	4/12/2005	This is a proposed 600 MW coal-fired generation facility near the existing Big Stone Plant, Milbank, South Dakota. Approximately 120 miles of new transmission line is associated with the proposed project.
		NOI:	5/27/2005	
		Scoping:	6/14/2005	
		Draft	5/23/2006	
		Hearings	6/13/2006	
		Final	Spring 2009	
		ROD	Spring 2009	
UGP Programmatic Wind EIS EIS-0408		Determination Date:	9/2/2008	This is programmatic EIS will address the growing number of wind project interconnection requests by identifying viable areas close to existing and planned Western facilities. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Region 6) is co-lead agency.
		NOI:	9/11/2008	
		Scoping:	9/30/2008	
		Draft	Summer 2009	
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Granby Pumping Plant Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild, Grand County, CO EIS-0400		Determination Date:	6/29/2007	Based on potential for significant impacts identified during the preparation of the EA Western decided not to complete preparation of DOE/EA-1520 and determined to prepare an EIS. The U.S. Forest Service is a cooperating agency.
		NOI:	8/10/2007	
		Scoping:	8/30/2007	
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		

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Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

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Windy Gap Firming Project, CO EIS-0370		Determination Date:	7/1/2003	Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is the lead Federal agency. This EIS will address options for re-routing a transmission line that would be affected by the project. Public review of the DEIS ended 12/29/08.
		NOI:	9/8/2003	
		Scoping:	9/30/2003	
		Draft	8/29/2008	
		Hearings	10/7/2008	
		Final		
		ROD		
Delta-Mendota Canal California Aqueduct Intertie Project, CA EIS-0398		Determination Date:	9/26/2006	Bureau of Reclamation is the lead Federal agency. Western would design and construct a new 69-kV transmission line to deliver Central Valley Project power to the proposed BOR project site. The project is on hold.
		NOI:	7/12/2006	
		Scoping:	8/1/2006	
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Los Vaqueros Expansions Project, CA EIS-0404		Determination Date:		Bureau of Reclamation is the lead Federal agency for this project of expanding the Los Vaqueros Reservoir by up to 275,00 acre-feet. DOE is a cooperating agency. BOR is the lead. Release of Public Draft tentatively scheduled for February 2009.
		NOI:	12/20/2005	
		Scoping:	1/24/2006	
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
	Total Estimated Cost			
	\$0.00			

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Impact Statements Expected to be Prepared in the Next 24 Months

Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
Prairie Winds Generation, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Feb-09	RUS is a co-lead agency for Basin Electric proposal to build two wind farms in South Dakota interconnecting with Western.
		NOI:	Feb-09	
		Scoping:	Mar-09	
		Draft	Oct-09	
		Hearings	Oct-09	
		Final	May-10	
		ROD	Jun-10	
Deer Creek Generation Station, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Feb-09	Basin Electric is proposing to build a gas-combustion turbine generation facility near White, South Dakota. The proposed facility would interconnect with Western.
		NOI:	Feb-09	
		Scoping:	Spring 2009	
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
PPM Wind Energy, IA	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		PPM proposes to build a 240 MW wind farm that would interconnect to Western's transmission system in Iowa.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) Transmission Project, CA	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Jan-09	TANC and Western propose to upgrade and build new 230-kV and 500-kV transmission lines in northern California. USFS and BLM are cooperating agencies. Western is the lead NEPA Agency. Project is currently preparing NOI and first scoping meetings.
		NOI:	Spring 2009	
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		

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Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
Hermosa Wind Energy Project, WY	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Shell Energy is proposing two 300 MW wind projects, for a total of 600 MW. Each project would interconnect with a different transmission line, but in the same general area (the lines parallel each other)
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Groton Generation, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Spring 2009	Basin proposes to lift the current 50 average MW limit on this generation facility which is interconnected with Western.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Searchlight Wind Generation, NV	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	6/26/2008	Searchlight proposes to build a wind farm on BLM land and interconnect with Western. BLM is the lead agency. Proposed at 300 MW. Western is requesting to be a cooperator on the EIS.
		NOI:	12/16/2008	
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Solar Reserve Generation, NV	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Applicant proposes to build solar generation facility on BLM land and interconnect with Western. BLM is the lead agency (or potential cooperating agency).
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		

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Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
Grapevine Canyon Wind Generation, AZ	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Foresight Energy proposes to build up to a 500 MW wind farm interconnecting with Western. US Forest Service is a potential cooperating agency.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
	Total Estimated			
	\$0.00			

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Assessments

Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
Belfield-Rhame Transmission Line Project, ND EA-1596	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	5/31/2007	Basin Electric Power Cooperative is proposing to build 70 miles of new transmission line in Bowman, Stark, and Slope Counties North Dakota.
		Transmittal to State:	9/16/2008	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Williston-Tioga 230-kV Transmission Line Project, ND EA-1635	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	8/21/2008	Basin Electric Power Cooperative is proposing to build 47 miles of new transmission line in Williams and Mountrail Counties North Dakota.
		Transmittal to State:	9/16/2008	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Fairview West - Spring Lake 115-kV Transmission Line Project, Fairview, MT EA-1612	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	3/5/2008	The Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association is proposing to construct approximately 27 miles of 115-kV transmission line and two substations in Richland County, Montana. The facilities would interconnect with Western's Richland-Williston 115-kV line at one of the proposed substations.
		Transmittal to State:	9/12/2008	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Sand Hills Wind Farm, WY EA-1581	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	11/17/2006	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead Federal agency for the proposed wind farm in southern Wyoming. Western is a cooperating agency. BLM reinitiated the project in October of 2007 and is reviewing the environmental data to determine a project baseline. Proposed project below 50 MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Wauneta Wind Project Yuma County, CO EA-1601	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	2/27/2007	This is a proposed wind project the would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Akron Wind Energy Project, Washington County, CO EA-1594	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	5/16/2007	This is a proposed wind project the would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 MW.
		Transmittal to State:	12/19/2007	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Windy Hollow Wind Project, Laramie County, WY EA-1610	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	2/22/2008	Proposed wind project less than 50 average MW. The Applicant is negotiating to sell the proposed project. EA is proceeding slowly.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		

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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
Colorado Highlands Energy Project, Logan County, CO EA-1611	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	2/22/2008	General Electric is proposing a wind project for interconnection with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 MW. FONSI anticipated in 2008.
		Transmittal to State:	11/25/2008	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Proposal to Rebuild the Lovell to Yellowtail No.1 and No.2 Transmission Lines Located in WY and MT		Determination Date:	3/28/2008	Western is lead federal agency. National Park Service is Cooperating Agency.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Tree Removal on USFS Managed Lands Adjacent to Western's Curecanti-Rifle 230-kV Transmission Line		Determination Date:	9/4/2008	U.S. Forest Service the lead Federal agency.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Green Mountain Reservoir Substitution and Power Interference Agreements		Determination Date:	9/4/2008	Bureau of Reclamation is the lead Federal agency.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Shasta-Flannigan-Keswick 230-kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project, Colusa County, CA EA-1598		Determination Date:	7/20/2007	Western proposes to reconnector 8.7 miles of transmission line in conjunction with the construction of the Colusa Generating Station. Western's planning to adopt the California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff Assessment as an EA. CEC is coordinating with the State. Draft EA to the public on 11/30/08.
		Transmittal to State:	11/30/2007	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
North Area ROW Maintenance, CA EA-1539	\$2,167,987.78	Determination Date:	2/22/2005	Western is preparing an EA to address the proposed changes in the operation and maintenance procedures along the North Area ROW. The proposed changes are to the vegetation management system. These include the expanded use of herbicides, manual and mechanical removal, erosion repair, geotech work, and fiber optics installation.
		Transmittal to State:	7/11/2008	
		EA Approval:	7/10/2009	
		FONSI:	7/10/2009	

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Assessments

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January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule		Description
Alternative Intake Project Transmission Line and Interconnection, CA (Contra Costa Water District)		Determination Date:	9/2/2007	CCWD requests interconnection with Western's Tracy-Los Vaqueros line. Public review of Draft EA in October 2008. EA Finalized in September 2008. FONSI currently under internal review for Regional Manager Signature. Expect approval of FONSI and Final EA in January 09.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Quechan Indian Tribe Power Line Project, Yuma, AZ EA-1630		Determination Date:	5/12/2008	Bureau of Indian Affairs is the lead Federal agency. Western and Bureau of Reclamation are cooperating agencies.
		Transmittal to State:	1/1/2009	
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Proposed Interconnection for the East Flagstaff Substation, Coconino County, AZ EA-1641		Determination Date:	10/30/2008	U.S. Forest Service the lead Federal agency.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Killdeer - Mountain 115-kV, ND EA-1644		Determination Date:		McKenzie Electric proposes to build 13 miles of transmission line interconnecting with Western's Killdeer substation.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
	Total Estimated			
	\$2,167,987.78			

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Assessments Expected to be Prepared in the Next 12 Months

Western Area Power Administration

January 2009

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Big River-Poston Transmission Line Construction, AZ	Customer Funded	Determination Date:		Western is proposing to enter into contract with Bureau of Indian Affairs to build a 69-kV transmission line on Colorado Indian Tribe land.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Dave Johnson-Miracle Mile Transmission Line Rebuild, WY		Determination Date:		Western is proposing to upgrade approximately 180 miles of existing transmission line
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Elverta Substation Expansion Project, CA	\$250,000	Determination Date:		The proposed project consists of expanding the existing substation to add nine breakers; add control, protection and communication equipment in the existing control room and rearrange the existing 230-kV Elverta to-O'Banion and Elverta-Roseville 230-kV lines. Intended to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) transmission system reliability.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
San Joaquin Valley ROW Maintenance, CA		Determination Date:		Address the proposed changes in the operation and maintenance procedures along the San Joaquin Valley ROW. The proposed changes are to the vegetation management system. These include the expanded use of herbicides, manual and mechanical removal, erosion repair, geotech work, and fiber optics installation.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Buffalo Ridge III Wind Generation, SD (PPM Wind Energy Project, White, SD)	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Iberdrola proposes to build a new wind farm near White, South Dakota interconnecting with Western.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Basin Electric Power Coop Culbertson Unit 1 East Side Peaking Project, MT	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Basin proposes to construct a new 80-100 MW simple cycle natural gas fired turbine, ancillary facilities and systems, and an interconnection to Northern Border pipeline and Western. Rural Utility Service (RUS) is the lead and the draft EA should be out by February 2009.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Assessments Expected to be Prepared in the Next 12 Months

Western Area Power Administration

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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Invenergy Wind Farm, Spencer, IA	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Proposed at 50 MW or below.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
DisGen Wind Energy Project, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Interconnection at Mission Substation in South Dakota, on tribal trust land belonging to Rosebud Indian reservation. 60 MW or less.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
PPM Wind Energy Project, Eagle Butte, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		PPM and Red Mountain Tribal Energy propose to interconnect a 75-150 MW wind farm at Western's Eagle Butte substation in South Dakota.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
PPM Wind Energy Project, Big Bend, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		PPM and Red Mountain Tribal Energy propose to interconnect a 75-150 MW wind farm at Western's Big Bend substation in South Dakota.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Dawson County Wind Project, Dawson County, MT	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Applicant proposes a 100 MW wind farm to interconnect with Western. Generation capacity is expected to be below 50 MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Babcock & Brown Wessington Springs Phase II, Wessington Springs, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Babcock & Brown may initiate a request to do an EA on the second phase of their Wessington Springs 99 MW request. This may occur in March 2009.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
	Total Estimated Cost			
	\$250,000.00			